

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 IGA-01 AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01

EB-04 L-01 STR-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 SWF-01 FDRE-00 SCI-02 PC-01 USIA-06

DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DRC-01 /117 W

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P 151545Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4527

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13793

E. O. 116TW: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, IN

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ADDITION TO PL 480 TITLE II FY 75 PROGRAM

REFS: STATE 222216 AND REFERENCES THEREIN

SUMMARY: CARE AND OTHER VOLAGS HAVE RECEIVED GOI LETTER ASKING TO WHAT EXTENT ADDITIVE PROGRAMS COULD BE MOUNTED IN AREAS AFFECTED BY DROUGHT AND FLOODING. CARR PROPOSES, AND WE ENDORSE, SUCH AN ADDITIVE PROGRAM WHICH WOULD CALL FOR 40,000 M.T. OF /EMERGENCY" TITLE II WHEAT. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. COINCIDENT WITH THE TENTATIVE APPROVAL PER REFTTEL, OF THE FY 75 PROGRAM, WE WERE ADVISED BY CAR/INDIA OF RECEIPT OF A WRITTEN REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE, MINISTRY OF HEALTH (THE GOI AGENCY COORDINATING DROUGHT AND FLOOD RELIEF) WHICH STATES THAT "WE /THE GOI) ARE MOBILIZING OUR FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL RESURCES FOR ORGANIZING RELIEF MEASURES AND REHABILITATIVE SERVIES" IN THE AREAS OF INDIA AFFECTED BY BLOODS AND DROUGHT. LETTER THEN ASKS FOR INFORMATION ON FOLLOWING POINTS (ALL DIRECT QUOTES):

A) WHAT IS THE EXISTING EXTENT OF THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF WELFARE ACTIVITIES OF YOUR ORGANIZATION IN DIFFERENT

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PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS AFFECTED BY

FLOODS/DROUGHT?

B) IS IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU ORGANISATION TO EXPAND YOUR WELFARE/RELIEF MEASURES IN AREAS AFFECTED BY FLOODS/DROUGHT IN THE FORM OF SUPPLIED SUCH AS CSM, MILK POWDER, BABY FOOD, EDIBLE OILS, MEDICAMENTS, DRUGS, VITAMIN TABLETS, ETC? IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT?

C) WHETHER ANY SUPPLIES CAN BE MADE BY YOUR ORGANIZATION FROM READILY AVAILABLE STOCKS? IF SO, TO WHAT EXTENT?

D) WHETHER ANY SUPPLIES CAN BE MADE FOR REPLENISHMENT IF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE FOR PROVISION OF SUCH SUPPLIES IN THE AFFECTED AREAS AT PRESENT? IF SO, TO WHAT TEXTENT?

2. THE SAME LETTER HAS, WE UNDERSTAND, BEEN SENT TO CRS, UNICEF AND OTHER AGENCIES OPERATING IN INDIA.

3. CARE'S SUGGESTION TO US IS THAT THE USG, TO ENABLE CARE TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE REFERENCED GOI LETTER, CONSIDER FINANCING A PORTION OF THE CROUGHT PRONE AREAS PROGRAM (DPAP) - THE SAME ONE WHICH WE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN THE REGULAR PROGRAM EARLIER THIS YEAR DUE TO EXTRAORDINARILY TIGHT TITLE II AVAILABILITIES (STATE 190221). SPECIFICALLY, CARE PROPOSES TO CONDUCT FOOD-FOR-WORK PROJECTS AS OUTLINED IN THE ORIGINAL DPAP CONCENTRATING ON THOSE FIVE OR SIX STATES HARDES HIT BY DROUGHT/FLOODS AND CONSEQUENT FAMINE OR NEAR-FAMINE CONDITIONS - BIHAR, WEST BENGAL, GUJARAT, MADHYA PRADESH, ORISSA AND (POSSIBLY) UTTAR PRADESH. TO MOUNT SUCH A PROGRAM, CARE AND WE ESTIMATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 40,000 MT OF WHEAT WOULD BE REQUIRED (HALF THE AMOUNT IN THE ORIGINAL DPAP) WHICH WOULD BENEFIT ABOUT 800,000 PERSONS (WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS).

4. RECOGNIZING FULLY THAT PL 480 TITLE II AVAILABILITIES UNDOUBTEDLY REMAIN VERY TIGHT, WE WOULD NONETHELESS ENDORSE CARE'S SUGGESTION TO US (ABOVE) AND WOULD HOPE THAT A POSITIVE USG RESPONSE WOULD BE POSSIBLE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAST PRACTICE WE SHALL SEEK MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RESPONSIBLE FOR AID) CONFIRMATION THAT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS MAKING THE REQUEST ON BEHALF OF THE GOI. WE HAVE NO DOUBT - AND ARE PREPARED TO DOCUMENT TO ANY DESIRED EXTENT - THAT CONDITIONS IN THE FIVE OR SIX AREAS IDENTIFIED ABOVE

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WOULD QUALIFY THEM FOR TITLE II /EMERGENCY TREATMENT (M.O. 1572.2). WE NOTE ALSO (SAME M.O.) THE PREFERENCE FOR FOOD-FOR-WORK PROJECTS AS OPPOSED TO FREE DISTRIBUTION - AND THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT CARE AND WE HAVE IN MIND. YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE LETTER DOES NOT EXPLICITLY ASK FOR THE NORMAL RUN OF COMMODITIES WE MIGHT FURNISH (FOODGRAINS) BUT RATHER FOR MILK POWDER, DRUGS, BABY FOODS AND THE LIKE. OUR JUDGMENT - AND CARE'S - IS THAT, SUCH DETAILS NOTWITHSTANDING, THE

GOI WOULD BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO A PROGRAM ALONG THE LINES
OF PARA THREE ABOVE.

5. PLEASE FURNISH US GENERAL GUIDANCE AT THIS TIME AS TO THE
LIKELY OUTLOOK FOR SUCH AN ADDITIVE PROGRAM. WHILE THE GOI
LETTER DOESNOT USE THE TERM /EMERGENCY", WE BELIEVE EMBASSY
REPORTING ADEQUATELY DOCUMENTS THAT THIS CONDITION EXISTS
IN SEVERAL PARTS OF INDIA. WE ARE PREPARING A SUPPLEMENTARY
MESSAGE WHICH WILL FURTHER DOCUMENT THE /EMERGENCY" CON-
DITIONS IN THE DROUGHT AND FLOOD AREAS.

6. FYI: WE WOULDNOT HAVE ANY SIMILAR EXPANDED PROGRAM
IN MIND FOR CRS OR ANY OTHER AGENCY. END FYI.

7. THE AMBASSADOR CONCURS IN THIS MESSAGE.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, PL 480 TITLE 1, NATURAL DISASTERS, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE13793
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740292-0958
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741046/aaaabnps.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 222216 AND REFERENCES THEREIN
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 AUG 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ADDITION TO PL 480 TITLE II FY 75 PROGRAM
TAGS: EFIN, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005